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Weisberg tabs JFK report as 'con job'

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A Frederick author and longtime critic of the investigations into John F. Kennedy's assassination says the Senate Intelligence Committee report released Monday is a "con job on the public" and ignores the most significant issues in the past president's murder.

"It's just another exploitation and another deception that the American people will have to suffer," said Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash I & II" and "Coverup," books which refute the Warren Commission findings about Kennedy's death.

Weisberg said he found nothing new or surprising in the Senate report which detailed bits of information surrounding the assassination the Senate panel said were covered up by senior FBI and CIA officials.

The covert plots to kill Cuban President Fidel Castro, the strange travel and rendezvous arrangements of

report says the purpose was not to duplicate the efforts of the Warren Commission, or review all the evidence or even address the question of whether Lee Harvey Oswald was the true assassin," Weisberg reported.

Weisberg said the major failing of this and all other subsequent government

investigations was their "fear to seek the real murderer of Kennedy."

"For the past 12 years, we have seen, as an undercurrent to this report, that not one of our public institutions has worked in times of crisis."

The Frederick author said he

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known CIA contacts and other possible leads and information left out of the Warren Commission, Weisberg said, are all familiar to him.

Upset with its viewed shortcomings, Weisberg said the Senate report is a "non-investigation."

"The report is titled 'The Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy,' yet the introduction to the



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possesses facts which prove that Oswald was not Kennedy's murderer.

As to who the real murderer is, Weisberg said more investigation is needed, but he said he does not believe the CIA murdered Kennedy or was all that closely involved.

"All of this CIA information is pure CIA propaganda being released by the CIA now 'because it is opportune to release these CIA disclosures with the Kennedy report,'" said Weisberg, suggesting the CIA connection to the Kennedy killing is a wrong trail for future investigators.

For Weisberg, who has dedicated several years of exhausting and expensive effort and court battles to obtain records and files pertaining to the Kennedy assassination, the paramount issue has become, "Can our government and institutions be counted on to find and deliver us the truth?"

"The whole affair takes on an

Orwellian color," Weisberg said.

"He who controls the past controls the future," the Frederick man quoted George Orwell from his book "1984" to illustrate the crux of the JFK, Warren Commission controversy.

The Senate report quotes a memo from then deputy Attorney General Nicholas B. Katzenbach declaring:

"The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin; that the evidence was such that he would have been convicted at trial."

Weisberg claims the FBI, Secret Service and other government officials "feared they could not solve the crime and, rather than risk that, they rushed to a convenient conclusion."

Weisberg said it is his opinion, ever careful to separate fact from opinion, that Kennedy was not killed because he was a Catholic or was John F. Kennedy.

The author speculates that policy decisions made by President Kennedy

may have sealed his fate.

"Little notice has ever been given to it, but just prior to his murder in November, 1963, Kennedy ordered the liquidation (withdrawal of American troops) from Vietnam."

"On the day he was shot, several hundred troops were reporting home, but, only days following his death, the Pentagon released a change of order reversing the President's decision. It received only scant attention," Weisberg said.

Another serious shortcoming of the Senate report, Weisberg said, is the exclusion of any mention of the Secret Service, which held tightly to the death certificate and other facts.

The CIA did not investigate for the Warren Commission but only analyzed data at its request, Weisberg claimed.

Since publication of his first "Whitewash" book in 1965, Weisberg said "no government action since has led me to believe I made a mistake."

About the Senate panel's report, the Frederick author said, "It took them 11 years to confirm my book, 'Coverup'."

Weisberg said he finds no comfort or retribution in the confirmation given by the Senate report to his claims that details of Kennedy's death were a coverup.

"I give 100 to 1 odds that they will continue to bury the investigation," Weisberg said.

"If the President of the United States can be killed and the Senate chooses to duck the issue," Weisberg asks, "than are any of us safe?"